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Church of God
Evangel





When a Church Ceases to Be a Church

By LAWRENCE WEAVER

Luke 19:45, 46, "And he went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold therein, and them that bought; saying unto them, It is written, My house is the house of prayer: but ye have made it a den of thieves."

WEBSTER'S DICTIONARY tells us that one of the meanings for church is a building for divine worship. Many people refer to the church as a "meetinghouse" and think of it as a place for seeing their old friends and meeting new ones. Some go to get the latest gossip and to show new apparel. When folks do this, the church ceases to be a church. We should always go to church in a spirit of worship. Notice the word "divine" in the definition. A church is not a place for worshiping men, idols, or such, but it is a place for worshiping the *Divine One*.

I have seen many churches as the congregation gathered just before service time. As the crowd increased, the noise increased, with everyone talking at once and the children running over the house—a great noise everywhere but in the prayer room. When a church permits this, it ceases to be a church and becomes a "meeting-house."

We should always think of the church as the house of God, as a sacred place. We should meet there to get our souls fed by the Word of God, to blend our voices together in praise to God and to talk and commune with God. If we go for any other purpose, it ceases to be a church and becomes a "frolic hall" and is no more a blessing to the community than a place designated as a frolic hall.

It should not be a burden for us to go to church and make it a real church when we get there. The Psalmist David said "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord." We should not go to church in just any kind of an attitude. The Psalmist said again, "But as for me I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy: and in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple," Psalm 5:7. We should always worship God in fear, not being afraid that He will not hear us, but fearing that we will displease Him and bring a reproach on His Church.

THE APOSTLE PAUL warns us in 1 Corinthians 14:40: "Let all things be done decently and in order." The same writer said some would have a form of godliness but would deny the power thereof, and from such we should turn away. He did not rebuke the church for having a form of worship, but for denying the power. When a church tries to worship God without the Spirit of God, it ceases to be a church and becomes a place of

"God-mockery." Jesus Himself said, "He that worships God must worship him in spirit and in truth."

Let us now analyze our text. As Jesus came into Jerusalem He found that the people there had turned the church into a den for a crowd of thieves. This displeased Jesus very much. He went in and cast them out saying, "It is written, My house is a house of prayer but ye have made it a den of thieves." I want you to notice especially He said "YE have made it a den of thieves." We are willing to admit that the responsibility of carrying the gospel to the world is on us and so it is, but did you know that it is also our responsibility to keep the local church a fit place for people to attend and worship God?

If there is anything that needs to be emphasized to our people today, it is that the church is a place of *divine worship*. They need to be taught it until they practice it.

The church page of a certain newspaper carried this announcement. "Couples of the _____ church are having a church-wide Valentine dance tomorrow evening. Saturday night, an all-junior-high Jamboree will be held in the gymnasium. There will be skating and games." Similar activities are carried on in churches all over America today. The paper referred to this place of worldly amusement as a church, but according to the Bible it has ceased to be a church, and it has become a place of worldly recreation. The only difference is that the high school gymnasium does not have a high steeple but the church referred to probably does have one. Just because a building has a high steeple is no sign that it is a real church. Sometimes it comes nearer being "the synagogue of Satan." That which makes a church in God's sight is the purpose for which people attend. The church may be a half-fallen hut by the wayside, a few poles stuck up and some brush thrown on the top to keep the rain out, but if the people go to worship their heavenly Father, to me that is a church. Hallelujah!

If Jesus should come into your church on prayer-meeting night when you were not expecting any special visitor, what would He find? Do you think He would feel as if He were at church or would your letting in the thieves of disorder cause Him to go away disappointed?

In closing, I want to call to your attention one more scripture. It is found in Ephesians 5:15: "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise." If the devil cannot hinder you by keeping you away from church, he will get you to go in such an attitude that you will not gain any grounds on him after all. So do as Paul said, "See then that you walk . . . not as fools, but as wise."

MY VISIT TO THE WORLD'S GREATEST MISSIONARY CHURCH

BY WADE H. HORTON
Foreign Missions Field Representative

*A*S THE BIG four-motored Trans-Canada Air Lines plane left the ground at Toronto, Canada, and flew up and up above the beautiful, billowing white clouds, my mind returned to the People's Church where I spent three profitable and happy days in their annual missionary convention. I shall never forget my first impression of this much-publicized, world-famous church. I shall not say that I was disappointed when I got out of the taxi and looked up at the People's Church, but to say the least, I was not impressed. It is not a very imposing structure. Frankly, there is nothing about it to impress anyone, especially one who has seen churches large and small, modern and antiquated, in sixty-six countries around the world.

It is an old church, built many years ago of brick and garnished with stone, and has long since turned many different colors. A large red, white, and blue sign above the door with the words "The World's Largest Annual Missionary Convention" did quicken my pulse a little. I continued to read about the "internationally famous speakers," "four great weeks," "colored sound pictures," and "missionaries from around the world." With mixed emotions working in double time rapidity, I went into the main-floor auditorium and sat down to await the beginning of the service.

The building inside is no more impressive than the outside. The pews are nice and comfortable, but very plain and show the use of many years. The pulpit furniture and other furnishings are the same. They bear the mark of dignity and service, but there is nothing elaborate or pretentious in any sense. There was nothing unusual about the people in attendance. They are about the same kind of people you would find in almost any other church in a large city on a Sunday morning. While impatiently waiting to see what was going to happen, it began to dawn on me that something was already happening before my very eyes and even in my own heart.

Large, bold-printed posters are all over the building and they seem to spring out at you with a mission message. Behind the pulpit is a large thermometer and the top figure is \$265,000, which is their goal for 1955. (This is the goal of one local church, not a church movement.) Above this are the words "according to your faith." On one side of the pulpit is a large word, GO, and on the other side, YE, emphasizing that action is expected of every individual.

All around the auditorium and balcony can be seen signs like this: "A church without a missionary project is a church with a miserable prospect." "The greatest waste in the Christian church is the Christian lives in it." "A man may die leaving upward of a million without taking any upwards." "A man who lives only for himself is in a very small business." "Christ alone can save the world, but Christ cannot save the world alone." "Only as a church fulfills her obligation, does she justify her existence." "Salvation is free but discipleship costs everything we have—God runs no bargaining counters." "The greatest foes of missions are prejudice and indifference, and ignorance is the mother of them both." "Now let me burn out for God." "Let go the grain of wheat if you want a harvest." "Gold is tested by fire, men by gold." "Emotion is no substitute for action." And finally the best of all by an all-time great missionary, Livingstone, "Nothing earthly will make me give up my work in despair."

WHILE I WAS fascinated and challenged by the mottos, I found that I had automatically joined in the singing of the really inspired missionary songs. They were songs that mellow you, songs that move you, awaken you, and challenge you. Too many mission services have no missionary songs at all. They sing songs which run the gauntlet all the way from "If I Could Hear My Mother Pray Again" to "Tattler's Wagon." Not only did they sing mission songs in this service, but in all nine services that I attended, no song was sung that did not have a mission message. The preaching was good—nothing sensational, but it was done by proficient men who knew missions not only from a Biblical standpoint, but from many years of experience in mission lands. They preached with such passion, power, and appeal that I was convinced they were doing it for Christ and the lost around the world.

The Exhibit Room had in it a collection of miniature missions fields. About twelve different booths were manned by pleasant-looking missionaries on furlough who were always eager to give out information about their particular field of labor. There were small huts and villages, large signs, curios made by native hands, native songs sung by missionaries, continuous missionary pictures of the various mission lands, and mission literature of every description.

The whole setting suddenly becomes clear. Piece

piece has been put together until it becomes a living, pulsating, panoramic picture. The secret is out. We now know the reason for the tremendous and triumphant success of this great church and its equally great pastor. It is the emphasizing and re-emphasizing of missions. It is putting missions first. The signs, the exhibits, the songs, the literature, the people and the preaching all seemed to be showing, singing, and shouting missions, Missions, MISSIONS, and *MORE MISSIONS*. It is putting first the things that God puts first. It is putting first the things that Christ puts first. It is putting first the things the Bible puts first. It is putting first the things that the early Church put first. The church that cannot see past its own doors will die in its own tracks. A church that lives only for itself is in a very small business. We must reach the "regions beyond." The only way it can be done is for the church to lose herself in unselfish service. It is imperative; we must do it. We can please our Master no other way.

The congenial and gracious, yet dignified and profound pastor, Dr. Oswald J. Smith, along with his faithful members, is celebrating his twenty-fifth anniversary as pastor of this church. During these years he has become world-renowned as evangelist, poet, author, hymn-writer, and missionary seer. He has a vision unequalled in these modern times. If we had a hundred more men like this man, we would reach all nations and every creature with the all-sufficient gospel of the grace of God.

While talking with him after the service on my last night, I asked him to what in particular did he attribute the amazing success (supporting 380 missionaries in forty foreign countries) of this last-day's crusade for Christ put forth by his church. Unhesitatingly he gave his answer and here it is: "*Putting missions first.*" *Putting missions first!* I felt that he meant every word he said, nothing superficial and nothing boastful, just simply stating a fact—*putting missions first*. This is it, nothing more or nothing less. "*Putting missions first.*" Gospel propagation, preaching the Word to every creature, and soul-winning is our business. Seeking the lost, praying for the lost, giving to save the lost, singing to save the lost, preaching to save the lost, reaching the unreached with the gospel, telling the untold the sweet, old, old story of the Saviour's love is our obligation on earth. Only as the church fulfills her obligation does she justify her existence.

The Christian church has become entangled in the meshes of methods and machinery and has almost forgotten her mission. Any other thing or program should come second to missions. *In God's book missions is first.* It is never third or fourth. Neither is it ever second. It is always first. Any act of Christian endeavor done by any church or individual that does not have as its ultimate goal the salvation of souls is absolutely worthless. All of our enthusiasm and works of seeking to scale the heights of popularity, prestige, and power will redound to our utter confusion and embarrassment when we stand before the Altogether Perfect One. All self-seeking, self-aggrandizement and self-glorification is seeking amiss and will end in fear, trembling, and frustration as we stand before our Saviour, who alone is worthy of the glory and honor. The external luster and gloss will fade away and will become lost in the light of the Bright and Morning Star, and in the blazing light of God's judgment.

All that is done for pomp and show will perish under the trial by fire on that day. All men-pleasing service will be burned up and pass into nonexistence, but love-service for our Christ and lost souls around the world will reap a rich and lasting reward. All miracles, signs, and wonders, unless they are performed by an underlying motive to win the lost to Christ, are all hollow mockery and will haunt us and hiss in our ears on that final day. All display of superiority and power is only sounding brass and tinkling cymbals if it is not used as a key to unlock prison doors for the prisoners of sin who are in the pitfalls of iniquity so that they may see the marvelous light of the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ and be saved.

We have heard the gospel so much we no longer love and appreciate it as we should. We have it from the pulpit, press, radio, television, and even from the street corners, but over half the world does not yet have it at all. Of the world's 2,974 languages, 1,789 do not have a Bible or a missionary. Africa still has 1,000 tribes without the gospel story. There are 600,000 towns and villages in India that have never heard the footsteps of one single missionary. Millions are begging for the gospel, and multiplied thousands are dying without ever having it once. It is the supreme tragedy of this age.

I have thought many, many times, "Lord, what reason or excuse can we give on that day for our failure to carry out the Great Commission?" Is it a lack of understanding? No, the Bible is perfectly clear on this point. Is it because Christ has not given sufficient power? No, read these scriptures and you can see that this is not the reason: Luke 10:19; Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-20; Acts 1:8. *Then it must be the neglect of the church.* We have been at ease in Zion. We have been careless and indifferent to the all-important command of Christ. There has been too much feasting and not enough fasting; too much playing and not enough praying. The only salvation for the Church and the lost world is for every blood-bought soul to "sell out to God" and give selfless service unstintingly in an all-out effort to win every soul for Christ.

I have come away from this missionary convention with three things in my new treasure chest; namely, information, inspiration, and confirmation—information as to methods of procedure in missionary work; inspiration in my own heart because of missionary singing and preaching and the Spirit of God which seemed to permeate the very atmosphere in every service; confirmation, for I saw with my own eyes, heard with my own ears, and felt in my own inner being all the things (and more) that had been told me about the missionary sacrifice and service of this great church and pastor. May the God of all grace grant that many more such pastors and churches will dedicate themselves to the task of taking the gospel into every nation, city, town, village, hamlet, crossroads, and yea, to every creature before the curtain of life's drama finally falls. *There will be no encores. It is now or never.*

*Can we whose souls are lighted with wisdom from on high,
Can we to men benighted, the lamp of life deny?
Salvation, O salvation, that joyful sound proclaim
'Til every tribe and nation has heard of Jesus' name.*

—Carl J. Tanis

Beautiful thoughts make a beautiful soul, and a beautiful soul makes a beautiful face.—Anonymous.



The Results of Home Training

By MRS. RUTH STARNES

By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter," Hebrews 12:24.

MANY TIMES GOD trains His leaders in obscure places. God's ways are high above man's ways. The wisdom of God is so far above that of man that we are sometimes almost overwhelmed at the things He does. Moses was born at a critical time in the history of the Hebrew nation. The Hebrews were in Egypt because of the famine in Palestine. They were favored as long as Joseph lived. After Joseph's death a pharaoh arose that did not know Joseph. The Hebrew nation had grown so rapidly, Pharaoh feared that in time of war they might unite with an enemy nation and overrun Egypt. So Pharaoh set taskmasters over them and put them in slavery. He also made a decree that all male children should be killed as soon as they were born.

During this critical time of bondage, Moses was born. His mother saw at once that he was a proper child. She must have adored him as she carefully hid him each day to preserve his life. No one could possibly know the terrible strain she went through trying to conceal him from the Pharaoh. How great is a mother's love! Ordinarily, we show our babies off. We are thrilled at their first gurgle of laughter. We try tirelessly to get them to show their talent to others. Think of the heavy heart Jochebed must have had each time the sun arose, thinking perhaps her baby would be discovered that day. Terror struck her heart at the very thought that his life might be taken that day!

Finally, when the baby Moses was three months old, Jochebed realized she could not hide him much longer. She surely was prompted of God in carrying out her plan. I have often visioned her praying earnestly to God as she fashioned the little ark, shedding bitter tears as she tried to work out the salvation of her son. But God also had a plan for Moses' life. Later when Moses, in the

ark, was placed on the river, Pharaoh's daughter found him. God caused her compassion to reach out to the baby. As a result of the plan, Moses' mother was allowed the privilege of nursing her own son. In time he went to the court of Egypt, but not before he was thoroughly acquainted with the God of Israel. Because of his environment and inheritance, Moses chose the spiritual things of life rather than the pleasures to be found in sin.

Mothers, we never know when God is placing a Moses in our care. Statistics tell us that juvenile delinquency is on the increase at an alarming rate. Could it be that parents are failing in home training? Remember, the home is where the first and most lasting impressions of God are made upon the child. Let us not be careless in this great calling. It is a work that will net eternal results.

John Ruskin said, "If I have accomplished anything in the world, I owe it to the verses of scripture my good mother instilled into me while I was at her knee." One man stated he was thankful for a habit his mother taught him as a boy. She taught him to always read a verse of scripture when he went to bed, then repeat it over and over till he fell asleep. He said, "Often these verses would come to my mind to counsel me during a crisis, or during a trying day." The leaders behind the Iron Curtain believe in child training. I read the other day where a new method of indoctrinating children is being tried in Hungary. At regular meetings of teachers, children and parents, the latter are compelled to expound various phases of Communist doctrine. It is believed that children can be controlled more readily by hearing Communist propaganda from the mouths of those they love and trust. Let us take the advantage in our great country to teach our children about God and His Word.

Happiness is like a boomerang—the more you give the more you have.

I refuse to think that there is as much ingratitude in the world as is commonly maintained. A great deal of water is flowing underground which never comes up as a spring.—Albert Schweitzer.

You cannot do a kindness too soon, because you never know how soon it may be too late.—Anonymous.

When we do the best we can, we never know what miracle is wrought in our own lives or in the life of another.—Helen Keller.

A truly virtuous person is like good metal—the more he is fired, the more he is refined; the more he is opposed, the more he is approved. Wrongs may well try him and touch him, but they cannot imprint on him any false stamp.—Cardinal Richelieu.

God hath many sharp-cutting instruments and rough files for the polishing of His jewels, and those He especially loves and means to make the most resplendent, He hath oftenest His tools upon.—Robert Leighton.

An aged Christian with the snow of time upon his head may remind us that those points of earth are whitest which are nearest to heaven.—E. H. Chapin.

Man and *missions*



From the Foreign Mission Executive Secretary's Desk, 1880 Montgomery Avenue, Cleveland, Tennessee—PAUL H. WALKER.

SCHEDULE

FOR THE

FOREIGN MISSIONS CARAVAN

There has been constant activity on the part of the members of the Foreign Missions Caravan without much publicity of late. We should like to report that they are on the job and getting good results.

The state overseers, district overseers, and pastors, with the fine response of the members and friends of the Church, are to be highly complimented for the cooperation that they are giving the caravan as visitations are made in the respective churches, districts, and states.

We cannot find space to report the lasting good that is being accomplished by the response of our people who have confidence in the foreign missions program, with a soul-burden for the lost in behalf of the growth of our work in foreign lands.

The schedule for the caravan is as follows:

PAUL H. WALKER, Executive Missions Secretary, leaves on May 24 to attend the World Pentecostal Fellowship at Stockholm. En route to Sweden, he will visit our churches in Birmingham, England, and in Germany. Incidentally, we have recently organized a church in Birmingham with thirty members. From Sweden, he will return to the States and visit the South Carolina, Georgia, West Virginia, and Michigan camp meetings.

WADE H. HORTON, Field Representative, will visit the camp meetings and conventions in Ohio, Kentucky, Virginia, Oregon and Washington, North and South Dakota, Saskatchewan, Canada, Montana, Missouri, Maine, Pennsylvania, and Delaware-D.C.-Maryland.

JOHNNIE OWENS, Missions Representative, will visit the Minnesota, Kansas, Mississippi, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Arkansas, and Indiana camp meetings.

A. W. BRUMMETT, Superintendent of West Indies and Bermuda, will visit the Florida Camp Meeting.

VESSIE D. HARGRAVE, Superintendent of Latin America, will visit the conventions in Texas, Colorado and Utah, and California.

These representatives are loaded to the limit with work as they carry the message of missions to the conventions to bless the people of the Church of God. Pray for them.

OTHER REPRESENTATIVES. There will, no doubt, be other representatives who will be representing missions directed by the Missions Department. It is regrettable that we do not have enough personnel to cover all the states, but we will certainly go as far as we possibly can. Many of the state overseers have requested a member of the caravan for their camp meetings, but we just do not have

quite enough to go around. We hope to increase the personnel if opportunity presents itself, but we will be praying for God's will in the matter.

GREAT CAMP MEETINGS AND CONVENTIONS

You may rest assured that the personnel of the Missions Department, including the deputational men and the members of the Missions Board, and all other mission-minded people who have seen a glimpse of Calvary and recognize the value of redemption, will be praying that this will be a crowning year for conventions and camp meetings in each state throughout the nation, and that the day of His coming which is being hastened because of the gospel propagation, will find us occupying faithfully until He comes.

GIFTS FOR MISSIONARIES

THEY ARE OFTEN TIED UP WITH "RED TAPE"

By a Missionary

Most of us have learned by experience that not all gifts are suitable for men in the Armed Forces. To insure the safe arrival of the package we must have information about the type of gift needed and how to mail it.

The soldiers of the cross are just as anxious to hear from home, but we forget that they, too, are hedged about with restrictions when it comes to receiving parcels. Unlike the U.S. Army, foreign customs officials are not anxious to pass along goods from abroad. All of the red tape and high duties, which are such a burden to American missionaries, are only another expression of the slogan "Protect Home Industries." It is a fact that many articles needed by missionaries can be bought in any country of the world (provided that funds are available).

Friends at home like to pick out personal gifts such as clothing, but it is well to learn from the missionary first how high the duty is on clothing. One young mother received several articles of baby clothing sent separately, and each one was greatly appreciated. The young father however, had to make several long trips to customs offices, and when the last package had been accounted for, the total tax on them was more than the garments were worth.

Used clothing was a great help after the war, when thousands of bales were allowed to pass without any duty. Now this situation has been changed, at least in certain countries. The payment of a heavy tax on partly worn clothes is no longer worth the effort.

Candy and perishables are usually disappointing gifts, no matter where they are sent. A young couple in South America spent two days going around to the customs offices to claim a package. After reluctantly paying a duty amounting to more than three dollars, they opened the wrappings to find a mass of pulverized homemade cookies. They felt too bad about it to tell the friend who had tried to give them this touch from home.

There are a few articles which are seldom if ever taxed. These are books, magazine subscriptions, and new phonograph records. While they may lack the very personal touch, they do have the advantage of durability and can be passed around among a group of missionaries.

To avoid difficulties with the customs and the payment of duty, friends sometimes send a check with instructions to buy articles on the field. If the donor wishes

(Continued on page 11)

Praise Ye The Lord!

By JOHN J. CODY, Jr.
Pastor, Carmi, Illinois

DEATH STRUCK at midnight.
Death struck the firstborn of Egypt.
Death struck from the palace to the prison,
But all the firstborn in the land did not die;

For life depended on the coverage of the blood.
The blood had been shed.
The blood had been sprinkled.
The blood had been applied.

The firstborn of the children of Israel lived;
Lived because the blood had been applied.
The death angel had passed over them;
For when he saw the blood he passed them by.

Moses led the children of Israel out.
They left the land of bondage.
They left the land of slavery.
They were delivered by the blood.

They marched to the Red Sea.
The sea was in front of them;
The mountains on the right and the left,
And the Egyptians were closing in from behind.

Fear gripped the children of Israel.
Moses prayed.
And God's presence came down;
And God's power clave a path in the sea.

The sea was divided;
The children of Israel began to move forward.
They marched on dry ground,
With a wall of water on the right and on the left.

The Egyptian army marched in behind them.
The waters closed in on Pharaoh and his host,
And death had struck the Egyptians again.
They had not been covered by the blood.

The children of Israel had marched out on the other side,
Marched out covered by the blood,
Marched out by the power and the presence of God,
Marched out free men, women and children.

The children of Israel glorified the Lord,
And they praised the Lord,
And they sang a song unto the Lord,
And they danced and rejoiced before the Lord.

Why did they glorify the Lord?
Why did they praise the Lord?
Why did they sing a new song unto the Lord?
Why did they rejoice and dance before the Lord?

Because they had been redeemed by the blood,
Because they had been delivered by the power of God,
Because they had been set free from bondage,
And because the presence of God was with them.

The presence of God was with them in a pillar of cloud
by day,
And a pillar of fire by night.
And now for my subject, which is:

PRAISE YE THE LORD
MY TEXT IS the Psalm 150.
"Praise ye the Lord.
Praise God in His sanctuary:
Praise Him in the firmament of His power.
Praise Him for His mighty acts:
Praise Him according to His excellent greatness.
Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet:
Praise Him with the psaltery and harp.

"Praise Him with the timbrel and dance:
Praise Him with stringed instruments and organs.
Praise Him upon the loud-cymbals:
Praise Him upon the high sounding cymbals.
Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.
Praise ye the Lord."

We who have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ,
Who have been delivered by His power,
Who have His presence abiding us,
WE must glorify, magnify, and praise the Lord.

We must shout out the high praises of God.
We must rejoice in Him.
We must sing the songs of Zion.
We must for it is scriptural.

Moses and all the children of Israel sang out,
"Who is like unto thee, O Lord, among the gods? Who is
like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing
wonders?" Exodus 15:11.

The Word of God is full of praises.
"Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout
for joy, all ye that are upright in heart," Psalm 32:11.
"Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous: for praise is comely
for the upright," Psalm 33:1.

"O clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph," Psalm 47:1.

"Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands: Sing forth the honour of his name: make His praise glorious," Psalm 6:16-2.

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands, Serve the Lord with gladness: Come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord He is God: it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people; and the sheep of his pasture.

"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and His truth endureth to all generations," Psalm 100:1-5.

The city of Jericho was promised to God's people.
That city was prepared for war.
Their army was great.
Their walls were high and strong.

How WAS Joshua to take this city?
Was it to be with a sword?
Was it to be with a battle cry?
Was it to be in his own strength?

The answer is no; if not, then how?
He was going to defeat that city with praise to God.
Joshua had been in communion with the unseen Captain.
Joshua had received a message from the Lord.

Joshua said, "you priests go first."
"Then take the Ark of God which represents His presence."
The preachers, teachers and leaders must go first,
And then too, we must have the presence of God with us.

Around the walls of Jericho they went.
They marched in order, the priests first;
With the presence of God backing them up,
And the people followed the presence of the Lord.

Around they went, one time a day for six days.
Then on the seven day one time,
Two times, three, four, five, six and seven,
Then they blew the trumpets,
And the people shouted.

They had followed the Lord.
They had obeyed His Words.
What happened when they had obeyed?
They shouted with a great shout and the walls came tumbling down.

"Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass," Psalm 37:4, 5.

The kingdom of Israel had been brought low.
The Philistines had won the victory.
The king and his sons lay dead on the battlefield,
And the Ark of God was missing.



A new king was chosen.
A man after God's own heart.
A man who saw the need for God.
A man who saw the need for the presence of God.

The Ark of God had been carried into battle.
It had been used in the wrong way.
The battle was lost,
And now they needed it back in Israel.

So down the road they went after it;
The king first,
The elders second,
The music next, psalteries, harps, cymbals and trumpets.
Then the people followed.

They recovered the Ark of God.
His presence was precious in their sight.
The king was leaping and dancing with all his might.
The musicians were playing and the people were singing and rejoicing.

Singing and rejoicing because they had obeyed the Word.
Because the Ark of God had returned.
Because His presence could be seen,
And His presence felt.

People who obey God's Word,
People who see and feel His presence,
They will and must sing and rejoice in the Lord.
Praise ye the Lord!

Solomon had completed the Temple for the Lord.
All Israel had gathered together for the occasion.
All the 4,000 band members played,
And all the cunning voices of Israel sang.

The Ark was carried in by the priests.
The sacrifices were offered.
The people sang and praised the Lord.
And God's presence filled the place.

The Temple was dedicated.
The God of Heaven blessed His people that day.
The God of Heaven blesses His people today.
Praise ye the Lord!

JESUS CHRIST came riding into Jerusalem
on the lowliest of animals.
The emotions of the people ran high.
They cut palm branches and laid them in the road for
Him to ride over, and laid their coats down also.

"And when He was come nigh, even
now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole
multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise
God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they
had seen Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the
name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the
highest.

"And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude
said unto Him, Master, rebuke thy disciples. And He an-
swered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these
should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry
out," Luke 19:37-40.

We who claim Jesus Christ,
Who claim Him as Saviour, Redeemer, Prophet, Priest
and King,
We will praise Him.
We will sing and rejoice in Him.

The disciples returned to Jerusalem with great joy.
They were continually praising and blessing God.
They praised a sound down from heaven like a mighty
rushing wind.
They praised God so that the Holy Ghost filled the whole
group.

The power of God was working,
The promise of Christ was fulfilled.
The presence of the Holy Ghost was poured out.
And they all acted as if they were drunk men and women.

Praising God brought an answer from heaven.
Praising God brought His promise.
Praising God brought forth a mighty message.
Praising God brought 3,000 souls to Christ and the
Church.

The early Church was forbidden to preach in the name
of Jesus Christ.
They gathered together, not apart one from another.
Why did they gather together?
They gathered together to pray and to praise the Lord.

They praised the Lord, all of them.
The house was shaken by the power of God.
The Holy Ghost came in a flame of holy fire,
And they spoke the Word with boldness.

Are you afraid to praise God?
If you are, then turn your tongue loose.
Give Him the praises and the hallelujahs that are due
the Lord.
Then you will receive both blessings and boldness.

Your troubles and problems will melt away.
Your Red Seas will open up before you.
Your Jericho walls will come tumbling down,
And then your life for Christ will be worth living.

Paul and Silas were beaten.
They were thrown into prison.
They were put in stocks.
They were aching with pain and could not sleep.

So they began to sing praises to God at midnight.
God heard and shook the jail with an earthquake.
The stocks broke loose and the doors fell from the
hinges.
And the jailer cried, "Sirs what must I do to be saved?"
Acts 16:30.

"Praise Him! Praise Him!
Tell of His excellent greatness;
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Ever in joyful song!"

Praise God the Father, Creator and Substantive of all.
Praise God the Son, Redeemer and Mediator.
Praise God the Holy Ghost, Applicator and Inspirator.
Praise the Holy Trinity in One,
Praise ye the Lord.

The Lord was praised in the past.
The Lord is praised today.
The Lord will be praised in the future.
For praises will ring from one side of heaven unto the
other.

"And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our
God all ye his servants and ye that fear him, both small
and great. And I heard as it were the voice of a great
multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the
voice of mighty thundersings saying, Alleluia: for the
Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

"Let us be glad and rejoice,
and give honour to Him:
for the marriage of the Lamb is come,
And His wife hath made herself ready," Revelation 19:5-7.

There's no thrill in easy sailing when the skies are
clear and blue. There's no joy in merely doing things
which anyone can do. But there is some satisfaction that
is mighty sweet to take, when you reach a destination
that you thought you couldn't make!—Anonymous.

reports

CHILDEBURG, Ala.—We are progressing under the wise leadership and splendid cooperation of our humble pastor, Brother D. L. Barrett; the untiring efforts of our Sunday School superintendent, Brother A. G. Isbell; and our Y.P.E. president with a "Go Ye" in her soul, Sister Guess. Combining their faith with works they have believed God for great things for the church, and the whole church is inspired to work, fast, and pray until we are able to report this wonderful progress. Within the last three months during our regular services, twenty-three have been saved, fifteen sanctified, and twenty-five filled with the Holy Ghost. Our souls were made to rejoice greatly when, during this time, nineteen were added to the church and there are still more to come in.

Brother Isbell's Sunday School enthusiasm spreads over the church, and on the last Sunday in March the Sunday School set a new record with 158 in attendance. This climaxed our contest to raise money for improvements on the church and Sunday School rooms. The class offering was over a hundred dollars. This, with the amount raised previously, amounted to over three hundred dollars. We praise God for helping us in our progress and thank Him daily for a church and leaders that work together in unity. That night during the evangelistic service our souls were fed and our hearts were made to rejoice by the wonderful message brought by our esteemed state overseer, the Reverend John L. Byrd.

The attendance is good in our Y.P.E. services and Sister Guess, with her faith in God and countless efforts, keeps our youth encouraged and the spiritual tide running high. It is a real blessing to listen to their singing and the talks they make with such deep sincerity. Naturally, with God's presence so real in their services, a number have received experiences of salvation. They have brought the Dis-

trict Y.P.E. Banner from the Fellowship Meeting for the second successive month. Having such a good Y.P.E. also gives a good Youth Sunday School class of around thirty, with over half of them having salvation. They are beginning their youth revival on April 16, with Sister Burgett of Birmingham as the evangelist. With the help of God, we are expecting to harvest many, many new souls.—Katherine Isbell, Reporter.

SUNSET POINT, Ohio—God is certainly blessing us here. Our little church has been organized only since last July. We had 19 attending Sunday School the first Sunday; our record attendance was 87. But today, Easter Sunday, God broke the record when we had 116 in attendance. We have only a small building, 16 feet by 24 feet, and we need a larger church very

badly. Any help will be appreciated.—W. Clarence Hooker, Pastor.

CEDAR HILL, Tenn.—We thank the Lord for sending Brother R. L. Siford to us as pastor, for we know that he and his wife are truly God's servants. They have done a wonderful work since coming to us in September, 1954, and the Lord is blessing us here. We have purchased new pews which cost \$500 for our church. Our ladies have had a nice kitchen for the L.W.W.B. completed in the basement of the parsonage. They have also built a new back porch for the parsonage, and they plan to build a nice front porch. We have a wonderful Y.P.E. and Sunday School. Each class is working to raise funds to finish our Sunday School rooms. The Lord is blessing us in a great way.—Ruth Whitehead, Reporter.



LIBERTY GROVE, Md.—Above is a picture of our record-breaking Sunday School. Our church was organized just ten months ago with nine members, and our Sunday School was organized with thirty in attendance. Since that time we have doubled our membership, set a Sunday School record of 115 in attendance, and had 62

in attendance in Y.P.E. last week. God is blessing, and we are certainly grateful to Him. Recently, we had a revival with Brother Curtis Goforth as the evangelist. Three young persons received the Holy Ghost, one was saved, and three new members came into the Church.—E. G. Gray, Pastor.

GIFTS FOR MISSIONARIES

(Continued from page 7)

To deduct this amount from his income tax report, he must send the check designated for the missionary through the mission headquarters office. It is not wise to send international money orders direct to the field, for a substantial charge is deducted when the money order is cashed.

In mailing packages to certain countries, be sure that they are clearly marked with the word "gift." Lightweight nylons and cottons can be sent. There is a special rate for sending lightweight merchandise (eight ounces or less) by air mail to certain countries. Information may be obtained from one's local post office.

Some mission boards discourage the practice of asking

returning missionaries to take along with them baggage boxes sent to missionaries on the field. This practice is discouraged because travelers are often limited as to weight and number of pieces of baggage; and additional baggage may mean not only excess charges, but even the purchase of another trunk to hold the overflow. It is also a financial burden for the home office to forward packages to the field which might have been sent there directly.

Let no warm-hearted lover of missionaries be dismayed by these man-made restrictions. The friends of soldiers serving abroad managed to send them tokens of affection from time to time, and missionaries deeply appreciate the spirit shown by David when he said, "Neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the Lord my God of that which doth cost me nothing" (2 Samuel 24:24).

revivals

CHARLOTTE, N. C. (Parkwood Avenue)—We have just had one of the most successful revivals in the church's history. Brother Bert Hare, formerly of Elizabethton, Tennessee, was the evangelist, and the church feels that he is one of the best that has ever come this way. The revival continued five weeks, and even though the weather was extremely cold the revival grew to greater proportions each week. Thirty were saved, 20 sanctified, 15 filled with the Holy Ghost, 21 added to the Church (including 2 by transfer) and 19 baptized in water. Practically all of those who united with the Church were adults. The revival spirit continues in the church with quite a number being saved and added to the church since the closing of the meeting. May the blessings of God continue to be with Brother Hare as he continues to win souls for Christ.—G. E. Weatherby, Pastor.

WAR, W. Va.—We praise God for the wonderful five weeks' revival we recently had. For many weeks before the revival the church had been praying for a Holy Ghost revival, and we thank God for it and for His wonderful power. Brother John W. Harden, of Leakeville, North Carolina, was the evangelist. Forty were saved, 17 sanctified, 10 filled with the Holy Ghost, 5 baptized in water, 7 added to the church, and a number healed of afflictions and sickness. The entire church has been greatly blessed, and we thank God for sending Brother Harden to our church. We also appreciate our good pastor and his wife, Brother and Sister L. L. McDaniels.—Albert Overbay, Clerk.

SPENCER, Tenn.—We truly thank God for the good revival that we had recently. Brother Chester West, of Knoxville, Tennessee, was the evangelist. Twenty-four were saved, 12 sanctified, 2 filled with the Holy Ghost, and several healed. The church has been wonderfully revived. Only eternity will reveal all the good done by this revival. God is blessing our church, and we appreciate our pastor and his wife, Brother and Sister Tom Keener, very much.—Mrs. Jim Madewell, Clerk.

WALLS CHAPEL, Ala.—Through much prayer and supplication to God the Walls Chapel Church has enjoyed a great outpouring of the Holy Ghost and one of its greatest revivals. Nineteen were saved, 14 sanctified, 23 filled with the Holy Ghost, 21 baptized in water, and 18 added to the church. The church is moving forward by the help of God and its faithful members.—J. W. Mostiller, Pastor.

CAMBRIDGE, Md.—We have just had the greatest revival in years, conducted by Brother Mark Summers. Twenty-four were saved, 24 sanctified, 21 filled with the Holy Ghost, 9 added

to the church, and several healed. People who had never attended the church before were saved and filled with the Holy Spirit. We had 193 in Sunday School which broke the Sunday School record of 175. Brother Summers did some wonderful preaching and working with those seeking the Holy Ghost. The meeting lasted less than two weeks, but it will live in the hearts of the Cambridge people for many years to come.—J. C. Jones, Pastor.

SWAINSBORO, Ga.—We have had a wonderful revival in which 29 were saved, 7 sanctified, 7 filled with the Holy Ghost, and 18 added to the church, making the total membership about 80. This makes 43 new members taken in the church since my assignment here 19 months ago. We thank God and praise Him for the good increase. Brother A. L. Stone, of Charles-ton, South Carolina, was the evangelist. His sermons were filled with divine knowledge and wisdom. The church was very much inspired by this young evangelist's preaching and his devoted life. We also had some remarkable healings during this great revival. One lady, who had been coming to the church for years even though she was unsaved, was saved and stated that she had been demon possessed, but they were gone and did not trouble her any more. She joined the church and is now a happy, faithful member. To God be the honor and glory forevermore.—J. T. Bramblett, Pastor.

PERDIDO, Ala.—We recently had a glorious revival in which God wonderfully saved 7 souls, sanctified 2, gloriously baptized 2 with the Holy Ghost, and we baptized 1 in water. We had as our evangelist Brother Harry McDuffey, of the Crichton Church. Brother McDuffey is a young minister who is an able speaker and an excellent singer. He is very consecrated and prays, fasts, and studies much. Though this was his first full revival, many of our older members marvelled at the way he expounded the Word and touched the hearts of the unsaved.—W. A. Grant, Pastor.

JESUP, Ga.—On Sunday night, March 13, Sister Mary Dedge, of Brunswick, Georgia, began a revival in our church. The Lord blessed in a wonderful way from the very beginning, and the saints were made to rejoice while the sinners were made to feel their need of God. The altar was filled with seekers every night. Twenty-six were saved, 20 sanctified, 12 filled with the Holy Ghost, 20 added to the church (2 by transfer), and 13 baptized in water. Everyone enjoyed Sister Dedge's singing and appreciated having Mitchell and Brother Dedge with us some of the time. We truly hope Sister Dedge can come our way

again soon. We also appreciate our good pastor, Brother W. J. Cothorn, and his wife.—L. R. Jernigan, Clerk.

NEON, Ky.—We are praising the Lord for the good revival we had recently. Seven were filled with the Holy Ghost, 4 sanctified, 3 saved, 3 baptized in water, and 2 added to the church. Our evangelist was Brother J. T. McGuire, of Pineola, North Carolina. Any church will do well to have him for a revival.—John R. Gouge, Pastor.

SURRENCY, Ga.—Recently, we had a two weeks' revival conducted by Brother and Sister H. G. Grey, of Iva, South Carolina. These precious saints of God preached under the anointing of the Holy Ghost. On one night as Sister Grey started to take her text, the Holy Ghost moved on the scene and delivered the message in tongues. The hearts of saints and sinners were melted, and all came forward to the altar for a closer walk with God. A backslidden man from Bradenton, Florida, was reclaimed and shouted the high praises of God. A number were saved, and one was filled with the Holy Ghost. We feel that a lasting good has been accomplished through this revival. The church has been built up spiritually and unity prevails. Any pastor in need of evangelists to conduct revivals certainly will not go wrong in securing these precious people of God.—F. F. Dowdy, Pastor, Van-Nequin O'Quinn, Reporter.

CHETOPA, Kans.—The people of Chetopa awaited with eager anticipation the revival announced by Brother Ottis Riggs, pastor of the Church of God. They had been told that it would be a meeting in which the supernatural power of God would be manifested saving souls, sanctifying, filling with the Holy Ghost, healing the sick and performing miracles of divine deliverance. The first night the building was filled with people and the presence of God. The gifts of the Spirit revealed the needs of the people as Brother Pitts ministered to them. As many as twelve souls were saved in a single service, and many miraculous healings filled our hearts with joy. Other ministers, churches, and people were blessed and said it was the greatest revival in the history of the city. The Pitts Brothers, J. T. and J. David, of Louisville, Kentucky, were used of God to bring revival to our hearts and to our city. God bless them! We appreciate our fine pastor, Brother Ottis Riggs, and his wife and children.—Mrs. Marie Armstrong, Reporter.

HAZLEHURST, Ga.—During February we had a revival conducted by Sister Mae Terry. It continued eighteen days and closed out with a building filled with people and the altar filled with seekers. Thirty were saved,

9 sanctified, 7 filled with the Holy Ghost, and 13 added to the Church. Our Sunday School has more than doubled the attendance in the last four months. We will soon complete our parsonage which is valued at \$4,500. We give God all the praise.—Gilbert A. Lewis, Pastor.

MARTINSVILLE, Va.—We thank God for the wonderful three weeks' revival we have recently had here. The revival spirit is still alive, and men and women are still being healed and saved. We had two saved Sunday morning. Brother C. H. Elrod of High Point, North Carolina, is one of the best evangelists we have ever had. He preaches old-time Church of God doctrine, and he is a man with the power of God in his life, not only to see people saved, sanctified, and filled with the Holy Ghost, but to see the sick healed and devils cast out. Twelve were saved, 4 sanctified, 2 filled with the Holy Ghost, and 10 added to the Church. Many were healed, and many that were oppressed by the devil were set free to enjoy their salvation. Our church is still feeling the effect of this great revival. Pray for us that we will be at our very best for Christ and His Church.—J. G. Houck, Pastor.

INDIAN CREEK, Tenn.—We have recently had a good revival in which a number of souls were saved, sanctified, filled with the Holy Ghost, and added to the Church. The church has been revived and the outlook is much better for the year. Brother W. A. Walker of Morristown, Tennessee, was the evangelist. Our pastor is Brother Charles C. Smith.—Mrs. Pauline Dukes, Clerk.

CARROLLTON, Ga.—We had a wonderful revival in March which continued two weeks. Thirty-seven were saved, 28 sanctified, 21 filled with the Holy Ghost, and 14 added to the Church. It was the best revival this church has had in six years. Brother H. R. Appling from Crumbley Chapel, Alabama, was the evangelist. His preaching was under the anointing of the Holy Ghost. He also sang and played the accordion which was a great blessing. Several nights the power of God was so strong that people came running to the altar without waiting for the sermon. Most of the converts are teen-age boys and girls who are really on fire for the Lord.—J. R. Whitley, Pastor; Mrs. Carl Jiles, Reporter.

CLIFTON, Ariz.—Recently, we had a week's revival with Brother J. E. Williamson, pastor of Bisbee, Arizona, as the evangelist. Eight were converted, 2 filled with the Holy Ghost, and 5 added to the church. The church has recently broken all previous records in Y.P.E. and Sunday School attendance. Both records were over five years old. The old record in Y.P.E. attendance was 81, and the new 88. In Sunday School, 76 was the old record and 95 the new. God is blessing us and we expect to go over the top for Jesus.—J. E. Bryant, Pastor.



MIDDLETON

Mrs. Hattie Middleton, a faithful member of the Eighth Avenue Church of God in Albany, Georgia, passed away Sunday evening, April 10. She had been ill for about four months. Sister Middleton will be greatly missed by her church and friends, for she had been a true Church of God member for twelve years. We must remember, however, that our loss is heaven's gain. Her funeral was conducted by her pastor at the Eighth Avenue Church of God at Albany, Georgia, on April 12.—C. N. Bolt, Pastor.

BELL

C. E. Bell, a faithful member of the Church of God at Cairo, Georgia, died January 14, 1955, at the age of 81. Even though we know he has gone to be with Jesus, he will be greatly missed by all of us. He leaves to mourn his passing his wife, Ollie Bell; two sons, Charles W. Bell of Tallahassee, Florida, and Joseph Paul Bell of Beal Air Force Base, California; three daughters, Mrs. Mary Miller of Cairo, Mrs. Annie Mae Miller, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and Miss Bobbie Sue Bell of Cairo; nine grandchildren; one brother and sister; and a host of relatives and friends. The funeral service was held at the Cairo Church of God with Rev. Merlin Brown, his pastor; Rev. C. N. Bolt, of the Albany Church of God; and Rev. Thomas V. Wells, of the First Baptist Church in Cairo, officiating. Interment was in the Long Branch Cemetery.—His Family.

HAMILTON

Brother S. W. Hamilton, one of our faithful pioneer ministers, was suddenly called to his reward March 8, 1955, at the age of 79. He had come from revivals in Missouri and Arkansas to Austin, Texas, where C. A. Starks is pastor. He died within about twenty minutes after arriving. His home-going service was conducted on March 10 by his pastor, Brother L. L. Green, and Brother L. C. Pennington in the North Wichita Falls Church of God. It can be said of Brother Hamilton that he died in action for God and His Church, which had come first with him for twenty-five years. Ministers, members, and friends in and out of Texas will miss him greatly, but his work for God and His Church will speak loud and long to remind us of his ministry. God bless and comfort his wife, seven sons, four daughters, thirty-six grandchildren, and fifty-three great-grandchildren.—J. D. Bright, Overseer of Texas.

BARKER

Mrs. Mary Barker, age 56 years, departed this life March 9, 1955. She was a faithful member of the Church of God in Alarka, North Carolina. She leaves her husband, six children—four girls and two boys—and a host of relatives and friends. She will be missed by all who knew her. Her funeral was conducted at the Alarka church by her pastor, M. R. Snyder, who was assisted by Arvil Nations, pastor of the East Alarka Church of God.—M. R. Snyder.

MARTIN

Kenneth Harold Martin, 17-year-old grandson of Sister Ethel Phillips, died suddenly March 29, 1955, at his home in Bryson City, North Carolina. He is survived by his father, his mother, three brothers, one sister, and a host of relatives and friends. His funeral was conducted at the East Alarka Church of God by Brother M. R. Snyder, Brother Arvil Nations, and Brother Riley Phillips. The burial was in the Jackson Cemetery.—M. R. Snyder.

FITZGERALD

Brother Frank M. Fitzgerald, a faithful minister in the Church of God for many years, went to be with the Lord he loved so well on November 15, 1954. Brother Fitzgerald had pastored churches in Louisiana and Mississippi and was always noted for his consecrated life and his willingness to serve others. To know him was to love him. All who grieve his passing can say with one voice, "There is a prince and a great man fallen this day in Israel."

SUMNER

On March 11, 1955, the death angel came and took Brother Robert Daniel Sumner (Uncle Bob) home to be with Jesus. He had gone to church that night and testified saying as usual that he loved everyone. He came home, went to bed, and died in his sleep. He was a faithful, devoted member of the Church of God in Lake Wire, Florida. The church has lost a faithful member, his wife a devoted husband, his children a loving father, and everyone a precious friend. His funeral was conducted at the Lake Wire Church of God by Brother J. T. Roberts, the pastor; Brother R. E. Drymon, of Bradley Junction; and Brother B. W. Watson, a retired minister. Strong men wept unashamedly as they witnessed the deep sorrow of the family, fellow ministers, brothers and sisters in the Lord, and friends. I was never more conscious of the preciousness and worth of the good will, love, and respect of my fellow Christians than when I saw the love and concern manifested. That is worth more than worldly possessions. His going has made heaven brighter and drawn us closer to God. His relatives and friends are waiting for that glad reunion day. Survivors include his widow, four sons, five daughters, three brothers, two sisters, twenty-five grandchildren, twenty-six great grandchildren, and a host of friends.—Mrs. Lottie Thompson, a niece that loved him dearly.



religious news



MISSIONARIES AIDED BY NEW TENNESSEE LAW

Tennessee lawmakers, when told of the problems some missionaries serving in foreign countries have experienced in securing permits to operate motor vehicles, passed a bill that will make it far easier for them to renew their American drivers license. The bill signed into law by Gov. Frank Clement, applies to any person, "who is now or who hereafter" will be in a foreign country in the employment of a religious or charitable organization.

Missionaries in a foreign country when their current U. S. license expires will henceforth merely forward a certificate from a physician attesting that they are qualified physically to drive a motor vehicle. With a current U. S. license most missionaries are able to secure a foreign driver's permit. Removal of this small, but often serious, problem will be appreciated by many evangelical missionaries.—(ERA—3-23-55)

AMERICANS TO GET INSIDE STORY ON CAPITAL CHAPEL

The American public and the world in general are about to get details of one of the most hush-hush meeting places in Washington—the place where lawmakers meet their God.

The House voted to prepare an official report on its new prayer room in answer to public inquiries and took the action on the same day the completed room was opened to newsmen for inspection.

Photographers for the religious and secular press, magazines and television were told they could take pictures of the room and its window for two days. Thereafter, it is to be "off limits" again to both press and public.

According to an official announcement, each member of the House will receive 100 copies of the special report on the prayer room for distribution. More will be printed if they are needed.—(ERA—3-23-55)

CHINESE MISSIONARIES SEEN TO FACE NEW TRIALS

Tougher days ahead are in prospect for foreign missionaries behind the "Bamboo Curtain" in Red China, if forecasts in Chinese newspapers published in Hong Kong are correct.

The papers base their predictions on reports that the Chinese Communists in Kwangtung province have again ordered all aliens (mostly missionaries) residing in the province to register with the public security bureaus in the counties and villages. Ap-

parently, the Communists have not succeeded in keeping track of the foreigners in China, even though they required all aliens to register on Nov. 28, 1951; on Aug. 10, 1954 and again before the end of January, 1955.—(ERA—3-23-55)

Temperance-minded Christians will be pleased to know that *The Reader's Digest*, which carried advertising for the first time in its 34-year history commencing with the April issue, refuses to accept advertising of alcoholic beverages, tobacco or medical remedies. How much the advertising profession respects this stand was indicated by the fact that orders for 1107 pages of ads—two-thirds of which were refused—were placed within two weeks after the magazine's decision to accept advertising was announced.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE OF THE NEWS

In Frostburg, Md., a bolt of lightning struck the belfry of the First Methodist church at 6 a.m. one Friday morning recently, touching off electrical chimes which pealed out the strains of "Be Still My Soul."

The unscheduled dawn musical interlude of recorded hymns continued with "Jesus Is Tenderly Calling" and "I Would Be True."

The Pastor, John Bayley said the lightning apparently short-circuited the chimes mechanism, which is set to play automatically each evening.

In Denver, Colo., a former bakery employee who stole a 10-pound chocolate layer cake in 1924 because he was hungry returned to make restitution.

He inquired about the price of a similar cake and was told it cost \$8.40. He paid and walked out. Now the bakery wants to locate the man to make restitution to him. In 1924 the cake cost only \$2.10.

In Rochester, Ind., The Rochester Canning Co. collected a 25-year-old bill it didn't even know was owed.

The debtor did, however, and sent the money in a letter which read:

"To whom it may concern:

"Please find enclosed \$1 in consideration of a few cans of peas taken from your establishment—between 1928 and 1930. When I was saved from my sins in January, 1932, I made resolutions as I felt the need. Yet it seems good for my experience that this act be acknowledged and accounted for at this time.

"Thank you and may you also be enjoying the peace of God which is offered unto men through faith and obedience."

In Greensboro, N. C., the *Herald-Journal* printed this item as current news: The Presbyterian minister was summoned to the bedside of a Methodist woman who was ill. As he went up the path he met the little daughter and said: "I am glad your Mother called me in her need. Is your own minister out of town?" "No," answered the child, "he's at home, but we thought it might be something contagious and we didn't want to expose him to it."

SCOFIELD BIBLE REVISION MEETING RESISTANCE

(EP) Ever since the announcement was made that Oxford University Press had named a board of evangelical scholars to revise the *Scofield Reference Bible*, members of the committee have been receiving a variety of suggestions, denunciations, allegations, indictments, complaints, and even threats.

Dr. E. Schuyler English, chairman of the revision committee, revealed some of the objections already received by committee members in the April issue of *Our Hope* magazine.

"The committee members," says Dr. English, "have been called 'Quislings' and 'Modernists.' Some of the members have been accused of thinking too highly of themselves in assuming that they could compare in spiritual stature with Dr. Scofield and his editors. It has been suggested that certain members of the committee will have no choice in the decisions."

"Your Editor," continues English, "as chairman of the committee of revision, has been attacked most of all. He is not only charged with being the instigator of the revision for the purpose of destroying the *Scofield Reference Bible*, but it has been said of him that he published the *Pilgrim Bible* which is a wordy, weak, tautological, slow-selling, second-rate imitation of the *Scofield Bible*, and that he has weakened and watered down *Our Hope* and will do the same to the *Scofield Bible*."

(MNS) From the ASSEMBLIES OF GOD comes the announcement of a new monthly publication, *World Challenge*, beginning in April. In the interests of world missions, this magazine will be jointly sponsored by the National Home Missions Department, the Foreign Missions Department, and the Woman's Missionary Council Department. Helpful articles, news items, and statistics covering missions at home and abroad will be featured.

• It's Great..! It's Proved..!

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SAILING WITH CHRIST

FULL 10-DAY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL COURSE—This is the great course that started the swing to Gospel Light! Introduced in 1952 it has been revised and improved, making it even more meaningful and attractive to all age groups.

IT'S COMPLETE—If you want to have a successful Vacation Bible School—all you have to do is follow the instructions given in the manuals for each need of the day. (A complete picture of the whole course as a unit is given in the "Skipper's Guide," the Director's manual.) The colorful pupil's books themselves include each day's lesson based on a Bible story with memory work coordinated with the teaching and activities.

IT'S GRADED—A course for each department has been specifically created to meet the needs and interests and to come within the scope of understanding of that particular age group.

IT'S CHRIST-CENTERED—The ultimate goal of this course is to lead boys and girls to accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour and to live for Him. The plan of salvation is clearly outlined and explained for all age groups, with the essential truths of living for Christ uncompromisingly stated.

IT FOLLOWS UP—From the moment your Vacation Bible School closes, you may institute the follow-up campaign completely outlined in the **Skipper's Guide**—all as a result of the contacts made through your Vacation Bible School.

IT'S BIBLE-CENTERED—The total programs for each department stem from the Bible, aiming to help the child to learn God's Word using the latest teaching methods. Everything—songs, memory work, missionary stories—emphasizes and illustrates the vital truths of the Bible stories.

IT'S CORRELATED—All parts of the program are designed and related to carry out the theme of "Sailing With Christ."

IT'S APPLIED—In any trip the destination should be known beforehand and the whole trip planned accordingly. "Sailing With Christ" has a destination that climaxes in the closing program (completely outlined in the **Skipper's Guide**).

(For Further Information See Back Cover)

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